

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) The India-EU Summit held in Lisbon on June 28, 2000 enabled both sides to review bilateral, regional and multilateral issues of mutual concern. A major step forward was the agreement to forge a new strategic partnership in the 21st century founded on shared values and aspirations and characterised by enhanced and multifaceted co-operation. The India-EU Summit Declaration provides a blueprint for upgrading the relationship to a qualitatively higher level. An Agenda for Action which encompasses joint initiatives in the political, commercial and economic fields was also agreed upon. The Declaration commits India and the European Union to cooperate to prevent and combat terrorism and to meet the challenges arising from it in the regional and international context. India and the EU will also strive together for a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.

(b) India and the EU have agreed that it is essential to raise the level of bilateral trade and investment so that its full potential can be realised. The Summit Declaration makes specific reference to bilateral consultations on anticipated regulatory and other measures affecting the flow of trade with a view to resolving problems at an early stage. The EU has agreed to encourage larger flow of Foreign Direct Investment, especially in the infrastructure sector. It was agreed that a Joint working Group on Information Technology and Research and Development would also be set up.

Musharraf's statement about no compromise on defence

2076. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "No compromise on defence, says Musharraf" in the Hindustan Times dated 24th June, 2000;

(b) if so, whether Government are also aware about Pakistan's statement that India aspired to dominate not only the Arabian sea but also the Indian ocean; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government have seen the reported remarks of General Pervez Musharraf which contain his misconceptions about India's approach towards Pakistan. These remarks reflect Pakistan's compulsive hostility towards India.

Government remain committed to building trust and confidence, putting into place a stable structure of cooperation and addressing all outstanding issues with Pakistan in accordance with the Simla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration. We expect Pakistan to demonstrate its adherence to these agreements by abandoning its sponsorship of crossborder terrorism and stopping its hostile propaganda against India.

PM's Principal Secretary's visit to foreign countries

2077. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister's Principal Secretary has visited a number of countries recently;

(b) if so, the details of his visit;

(c) whether he has visited USA and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether he had discussions with the officials of various countries; and

(e) if so, what is the nature of talks and outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir Since the adjournment of the two Houses of Parliament on 17th May, 2000, Principal Secretary has visited Nepal, Italy Portugal and USA.

Principal Secretary to PM led a' delegation to Nepal for the Fifth High Level Task Force (HLTF) meeting held in Kathmandu on 6-7 June, 2000.

Principal Secretary to PM was a part of the official delegation which accompanied PM to Italy and Portugal for